DC COMICS™

12

GRAYSON™

THE JOURNEY HOME

SEELEY
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JANIN
COX

RATED T TEEN

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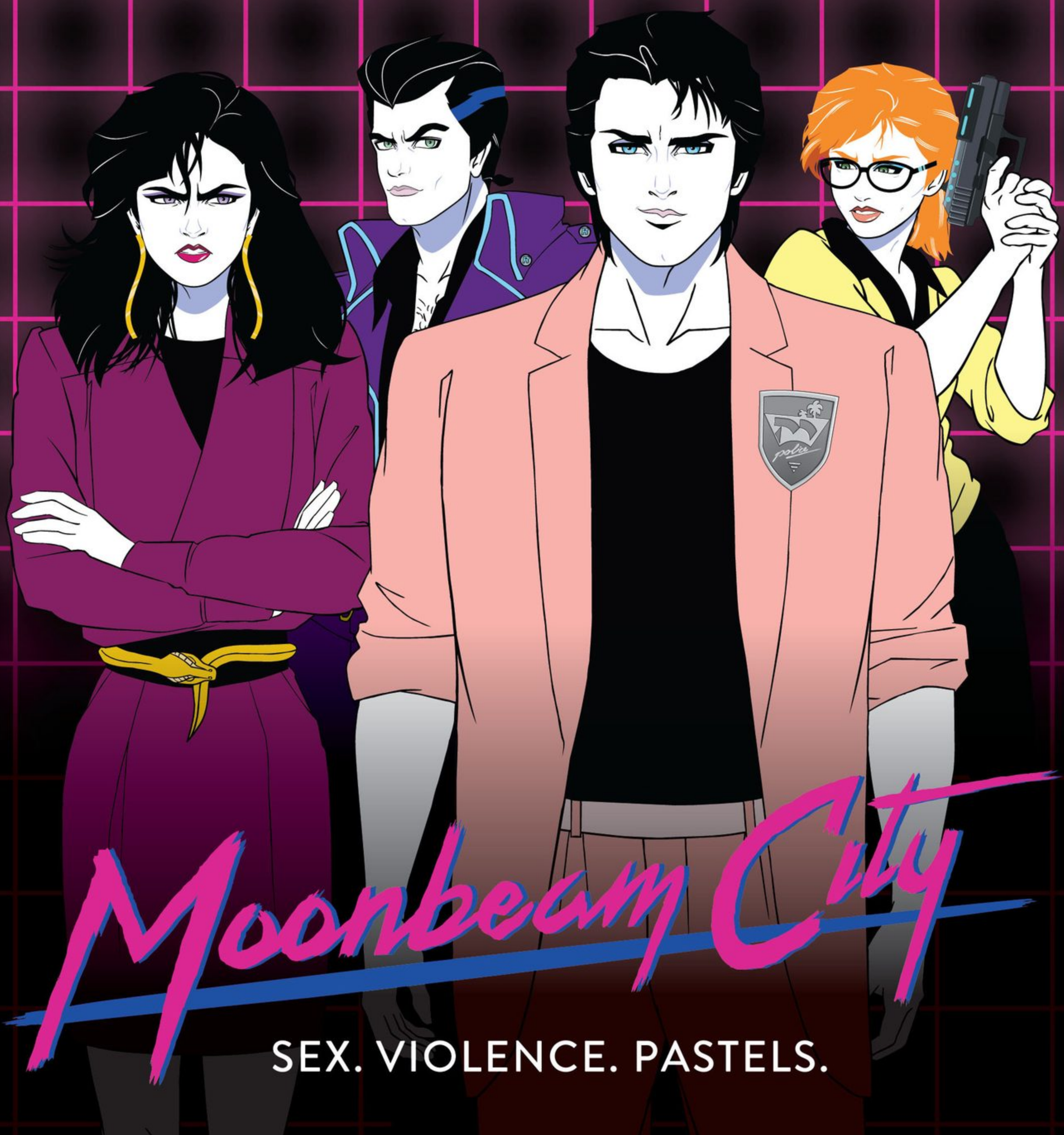
ELIZABETH BANKS
as PIZZAZ

WILL FORTE
as RAD

ROB LOWE
as DAZZLE

KATE MARA
as CHRYSALIS



Moonbeam City

SEX. VIOLENCE. PASTELS.

NEW SERIES **WEDNESDAYS**
AFTER SOUTH PARK
& ON THE APP

COMEDY CENTRAL

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GRAYSON™

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WE ARE NOT LIARS, MASTER RICHARD.

LIARS BEND THE WORLD TO EASE THEIR EFFORTS IN WALKING ASTRIDE IT.

THEY PACE BACK AND FORTH, SMILING, IGNORANT OF THE LIVES WARPED BENEATH THEM.

YOU DECEIVED YOUR FAMILY AT THE REQUEST OF THE BATMAN.

YOU FAKED YOUR OWN DEATH TO PENETRATE ***SPYRAL***, TO STEAL THE SECRETS OF THOSE STEALING ***OUR*** SECRETS, STEALING OUR LIVES.

YOU BENT THE WORLD IN ORDER TO REPAIR IT, TO MAKE IT EASY FOR OTHERS TO TREAD.

AFTER HE LOST HIS MEMORY, I TOLD BRUCE WAYNE THAT HE WAS BRUCE WAYNE.

AND ***NOTHING MORE.***

HE SPENT HIS LIFE WALKING UPHILL, ALWAYS FIGHTING HIS OWN PAIN.

I, TOO, BENT THE WORLD. AND NOW BRUCE CAN FINALLY WALK EASY.

I'D BEEN USING THOSE ***HYPNOS*** AS A CRUTCH, THE WAY SPYRAL WANTED ME TO, SO THEY COULD CONTROL ME.

I FORGOT WHERE I WAS FROM, ***ALFRED.*** I FORGOT WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH A LITTLE GREASEPAINT.

"...WE ARE ***PERFORMERS.***"

THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME OVER, BRUCE.

I KNOW YOU DON'T REMEMBER, BUT IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.

YES, YOU SEE, MASTER RICHARD, WE ARE NOT LIARS...

ROBIN, YOU GO AFTER THE MAN ON THE ROOF-- I'LL TAKE THE GONDOLA!

YOU CAN TELL HIS WIDOW... HIS ORPHANS... JUST EXACTLY HOW GREAT I AM!

I'M NOT ESCAPING! BACK UP. YOU MIGHT AS WELL MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL.

EARN THE NIGHT.

CARE FOR SOME LEMONADE?

YOUR FIRST DUTY IS TO YOURSELF. BE RESPONSIBLE TO YOURSELF, DICK--AND ALL THE REST WILL FOLLOW.

READY FOR A ROUGH CLIMB, ROBIN?

YOU'RE RIGHT... IT IS NONE OF YOUR DAMN BUSINESS.

FEEL LIKE BLOWING THIS SHINDIG AND GOING ON PATROL?

IN WHAT I DO, THERE'S NO PLACE FOR A CHILD.

I CAN'T LET YOU GO OUT THERE UNTRAINED. ALL YOU'LL DO IS GET HURT. OR WORSE.

I'M TIRED OF TALKING! YOU READY, ROBIN?

WELL, IT'S A-- I MEAN I'M SURE IT HAS. PLEASE, PLEASE, SIT DOWN.

CAN I GET YOU SOMETHING? A DRINK? I HAVE A ***BUTLER.*** HE CAN GET YOU SOMETHING.

ANYTHING YOU LIKE.

DON'T YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T KILL BATMAN AND NIGHTWING?!

GET SET FOR SOME ACTION, ROBIN!

TOO MANY PEOPLE WANT ME DEAD. I CAN'T DO IT ALONE.

YOU'RE RIGHT. I GUESS THE LIFE OF BRUCE WAYNE DOES DEPEND QUITE A BIT ON THE EXISTENCE OF THE BATMAN!

CAREFUL, DICK! THIS GIANT LINCOLN HEAD PENNY IS ONE OF OUR PRIZE TROPHIES! LET'S NOT SMASH IT ON OUR FIRST DAY BACK HOME!

I DON'T NEED A PARTNER. I NEVER SHOULD HAVE HAD ONE. AND I NEVER WILL AGAIN.

NO! YOU SEE, ROBIN, IN MY HALLUCINATION, I ONLY IMAGINED YOU DIED AT DAWN!

RO-- NIGHTWING! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I'M WORKING ON A CASE. IF YOU WANT TO STAY... I WON'T STOP YOU.

I WON'T REALLY BE BACK UNTIL I'VE TAKEN GOTHAM. AND THAT BATTLE STARTS NOW.

DICK, WHAT DID HE SAY TO YOU IN THE DARK, BEFORE I WOKE?

NO, NO THANKS. I'M FINE.

WELL, IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND.

I'M VERY SORRY, ALFRED HAS BEEN RATHER *VAGUE* ABOUT YOUR VISIT. I THINK HE WORRIES ABOUT MY FEELINGS OR ME GETTING HURT OR SOME SUCH.

HE TREATS ME LIKE A CHILD. *HIS* CHILD, WHICH I APPRECIATE, BUT-- WELL I'M SORRY IT'S BEEN SO LONG. DID WE HAVE A *FIGHT?* OR...

NO, NO IT WASN'T A FIGHT. WE WERE FRIENDS, GREAT FRIENDS...

I HAD TO GO AWAY. FOR *WORK.* JUST A LOT OF WORK.

OH, OH YES.

WELL, I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME BACK.

WORK CAN BE SO STRESSFUL.

THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE GOT...

I'VE GOT TO *ASK* YOU SOMETHING.

OH, OF COURSE. YES. WHAT IS IT?

YOU NEED *MONEY?* I DON'T HAVE WHAT I GUESS I ONCE HAD, BUT WHATEVER IT IS...

NO, IT'S NOT MONEY.

IT'S...I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY IT...

I--ARE YOU *HAPPY?* I MEAN, I GUESS THAT'S JUST IT. ARE YOU HAPPY NOW, BRUCE?

I DON'T... *HAPPY?*

YES, WELL. IT'S A CHALLENGE TO TELL THESE THINGS NOW. WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE EXACTLY. WHEN YOU'VE CHANGED AND YOU DON'T KNOW...YOU MIGHT CHANGE AGAIN.

IT'S A CHALLENGE. I DON'T KNOW IF ANYONE ELSE CAN UNDERSTAND THAT.

TRY ME.

I WILL SAY THIS. THERE ARE MOMENTS NOW, AT NIGHT USUALLY, WHERE EVERYTHING IS QUIET. JUST, THE CITY SEEMS TO GO AWAY. IT'S ALL STILL.

AND I LISTEN. I CAN HEAR BIRDS AND WIND--THE TAPPING OF SOMETHING ON THE WINDOW, MAYBE.

WHEN IT'S QUIET LIKE THAT, AND I CAN...I FEEL...*JOY.* I SUPPOSE IT'S JOY, MAYBE. I DON'T KNOW. IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN.

IT SOUNDS NICE.

IT IS NICE.

OR, I GUESS, AT LEAST, IT WILL BE NICE AS LONG AS THE WINDOW HOLDS.

CRASH!!

nnnnggg.

WHAT--

YOU KNOW ***AGENT 37***, AFTER WATCHING YOU FIGHT FOR MY ***SPYRAL*** ALL THIS TIME, THIS IS NOT AT ALL HOW I IMAGINED MEETING YOU.

I THINK I JUST ASSUMED YOU'D HAVE YOUR ***SHIRT OFF.***

OH WELL, MY LOSS REALLY.

I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS, BUT YOU *REALLY* SHOULDN'T BE *HERE.*

I SWEAR, 37, YOU'RE THE ONLY HERO WHO *APOLOGIZES* BEFORE HE HITS SOMEONE.

BUT WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR MANNERS NOW.

YOU HAVE TO GET BACK TO WORK.

I THINK YOU'VE BEEN MISINFORMED.

I'M *DONE* WITH SPYRAL.

OH YES, I KNOW, I KNOW.

I KNOW EVERYTHING.

BUT YOU SEE HONEY, *WE'RE* NOT QUITE DONE WITH *YOU.*

BEATING YOU UP IS SO TIRESOME. LET'S SKIP TO THE SOLUTION, SHALL WE?

YOU WILL RETURN TO WORK, OR ELSE WE WILL TELL THE WORLD *BRUCE WAYNE IS BATMAN.*

THERE, SEE? DONE. NOW WE DON'T HAVE TO PUNCH EACH OTHER. ISN'T THAT MORE PLEASANT?

LOOK, I REALIZE NOT COMMUNICATING WITH ALL YOUR LITTLE *FRIENDS* HAS BEEN TOUGH ON YOU, AND I DON'T WANT THINGS TO BE TOUGH ON YOU, DICK.

WE CAN'T HAVE YOU RUNNING AWAY EVERY THIRD THURSDAY.

SO IF IT HELPS YOU RETURN, I'LL EVEN LET YOU HAVE TWENTY-FOUR HOURS TO SAY HI AND BYE. LET THEM KNOW YOU'RE *ALIVE.* LET THEM KNOW YOU CAN'T STAY, YOU'RE SERVING A GREATER GOOD.

YOU SEE DICK, WE'RE NOT EVIL. WE'RE JUST PERSISTENT.

WHO ARE YOU?

OH, 37, THAT'S ADORABLE.

LOOK, IT'S FINE ENOUGH FOR YOU TO KNOW I'M *AGENT ZERO*, THE SPIDER IN THE WEB.

AND I'M CALLING YOU HOME.

I *AM* HOME.

NO, DARLING NO...

NOT ANYMORE.

MASTER BRUCE! MR. SPARROW! I HEARD A WINDOW BREAK!

SIRS, IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?!

Ah, BULLOCKS.

MASTER BRUCE! MR. SPARROW! IS EVERYTHING--

CBRASH

HE'S FINE.

I'M FINE.

ALFRED, I NEED YOU TO GET ME SOME THINGS.

IT'S TIME.

TIME, MASTER RICHARD? TIME FOR WHAT?

TO PERFORM.

WHERE DO WE START, DICK?

DICK, PLEASE--TAKE THIS. IT BELONGS TO YOU!

THERE'S A LEGACY TO MAINTAIN.

WELL, I'M TIRED OF ANALYZING EVERYTHING TO DEATH AS EVERY-ONE I LOVE DIES AROUND ME.

HEY, IF YOU BOYS WANT TO KICK MY ASS, NEXT TIME JUST COME TO ME AND TRY IT...

JUST STAY TOGETHER--

LOOK AROUND YOU! THESE ARE RESULTS. CRIME JUST STOPPED PAYING FOR THESE STIFFS.

I DON'T NEED TO BE TOLD HOW TO DO MY JOB BY THE GUY WHO LEFT ME TO FILL IN HIS CAPE.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE, CIRCUS GUY?

YEAH, THE SIGNAL'S BEEN ON FOR HOURS NOW, BUT HE HASN'T SHOWN.

NOW WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT, PAL?

ONE FOR ALL...

I DON'T PLAN ON TAKING OVER FOR HIM SOMEDAY. I WON'T BE OUT HERE ON THE ROOFTOPS TEN YEARS FROM NOW.

BUT I KNOW I'M RIGHT, DICK, AND I'M GOING TO PROVE IT.

BATMAN NEEDS A ROBIN. NO MATTER WHAT HE THINKS HE WANTS.

OH, SHUT UP!

WE'RE NOT BATMAN.

SHUT UP, NIGHTWING.

YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS, ARE YOU? YOU'RE NOT EVEN GOING TO SAY "HI" TO HER, DICK?

LOOK AT YOU, MAN! BACK ON BOTH FEET! THINK YOU'RE DONE STOPPING BULLETS WITH YOUR BODY FOR A WHILE?

BUT BOY, DICK, YOU SURE GOT SOME GAME.

SO WHAT IS THE DEAL WITH YOU AND BARBARA?

TWO'S COMPANY. FOUR'S A PAIN IN THE BUTT.

DULY NOTED, OLD TIMER. I'LL WORK ON IT.

YEAH, YOU'RE VIRILE.

THIS IS THE ONLY DOWNSIDE TO BEING ROBIN.

TELL ME HE'S NOT USING FACIAL REC FOR THE PARTY.

KNOWING SUPES ISN'T THERE TO MAKE A BASKET CATCH, OR GL'S NOT THROWING ACROSS A GREEN NET FOR THE BIG SAVE, KINDA GETS THE ADRENALINE PUMPING IN A WHOLE DIFFERENT WAY.

BAT-COW? ARE YOU NUTS. CALL IT BAT-STEAK, I'M IN.

WELL JEEZ, DICK, JUST LOOK AT HER.

WILL YOU GUYS SHUT UP?

I WENT TO YOUR FUNERAL! I WENT TO YOUR *DAMN* FUNERAL!

I DON'T CARE WHAT BATS TOLD YOU, YOU DON'T DO THAT TO YOUR--

YOU DON'T DO THAT TO ANOTHER *ROBIN!*

JAY... TIM... I...

YOU DON'T...

WE ALL DIE. WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE.

WE HAVE TO. IT'S PART OF IT.

BUT YOU DIDN'T DIE, DID YOU? YOU JUST *LIED.*

REMEMBER WHEN WE FOUND OUT BRUCE LIED ABOUT JOKER?*

THE REASON WE DIDN'T FALL APART AFTER THAT, THE REASON WE STAYED TOGETHER...

...IT'S BECAUSE WE KNEW, EVEN IF BATMAN LIES TO US, WE WOULDN'T LIE TO *EACH OTHER.*

*BATMAN #17 --TAY

AND NOW YOU DO *THIS,* DICK?

YOU?!

I'M SORRY, I...

LOOK, I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU GUYS.

ALFRED LET ME HAVE THEM. FIGURED BRUCE DIDN'T NEED THEM ANYMORE.

THESE ARE HIS FIRST ONES. *ONE* AND *TWO.*

HE'D WANT YOU TO HAVE HIM.

YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT I KNOW. YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU'RE RIGHT TO HIT ME. YOU'RE RIGHT TO SAY ALL OF THAT.

BUT I DON'T REGRET IT. WE HAD TO KEEP THE SECRET.

AND THE FEWER PEOPLE THAT KNEW, THE FEWER PEOPLE THAT HAD THAT BURDEN. AND IT WAS *MY* BURDEN TO KEEP, MY BLAME TO TAKE, MY LIE TO TELL. *NOT YOURS.*

I'M THE *OLDEST.* I CARRIED THAT. SO YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO.

"BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW.

"REALLY, I *NEED* YOU TO KNOW.

"EVERYTHING WE'VE GONE THROUGH TOGETHER.

"ALL OF THAT NEVER LEFT ME, NEVER WILL LEAVE ME.

"KNOWING YOU GUYS ARE BEHIND ME IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING.

"I'M NOT JUST ANOTHER FELLOW DISCIPLE OF THE BAT OR WHATEVER.

"TIM, JASON, I'M YOUR BROTHER."

WAIT ARE YOU USING THAT CO--

Shhhhhh

THIS IS HIM? HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MUCH.

BETTER GET TO THE POINT QUICK THEN, 'CAUSE I'M NOT FINDING THIS AS CHARMING AS YOU THINK IT IS.

BARBARA, WE NEED TO TALK.

I'M NOT SURE THIS IS SUCH A GOOD IDEA.

WE NEED A FRESH START IF WE'RE GOING TO HAVE ANY FUTURE TOGETHER.

BET THAT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE FALLEN FOR A WOMAN!

YEAH WELL, BEING MAD ABOUT THIS ISN'T GOING TO HELP ANYTHING, NIGHTWING.

YOU TALK TOO MUCH, GRAYSON.

YES--A LITTLE MALE MENTAL CONTROL TRICK I LEARNED FROM POISON IVY. I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO DO WHATEVER I WANT NOW.

THAT WAS NOT A KISS, TWENTY-SOMETHING WONDER. IT WAS PURELY SCIENTIFIC.

LET'S CUT THE CLOWNING, DICK. GET IN COSTUME, WE HAVE TO TALK.

YOU KNOW THE COSTUME MAY HAVE CHANGED...BUT THE ATTITUDE'S THE SAME.

I THOUGHT YOU KNEW WHAT THIS WAS, DICK.

I DON'T SEE HOW WE CAN EVER BE...BE FRIENDS IF YOU DON'T DO THIS FOR ME.

G-GRAYSON, JU-JUST SHUT UP AND HOL-HOLD ME!

SO THIS IS IT. THE GUN THAT SHOT MY DAD.

YOU CAN CALL ME BABS, IF I CAN CALL YOU DICK!

AND MAYBE YOU'RE TOO--

HANDS OFF BATMAN! FROM NOW ON, ROBIN WORKS EXCLUSIVELY WITH ME!

TOO MANY. I'M SORRY. I'M SORRY I DIDN'T LISTEN.

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT, HUNK WONDER?

OH KNOCK OFF THE MACHO ROUTINE, ROBIN!

NIGHTWING, I NEED YOU TO UNDERSTAND. I NEED TO DO THIS ALONE. ALONE.

YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, ROBIN! AND YOU KNOW *WHAT* I'M GOING TO DO--

YES, SIR. AND WE CAN ENTRUST THE RESCUE OF PENNYWORTH TO YOU, I HOPE.

NICE GOING-- EVEN IF ONE OF THE CROOKS MANAGED TO SLIP AWAY!

WE HAVE TO WORK FAST. IF THERE IS A TRAIL, IT'S GETTING COLDER BY THE SECOND. IT'S BAD COP/BAD COP TIME.

YOU WIN, FORMER BOY WONDER. I AM LOVING IT.

YOU SHOW ME *YOUR* LICENSE TO WEAR MASKS AND ACT TOUGH.

STAY LOOSE, BOY!

COME ALONG, ROBIN! I HAVE YOUR SEAT OF HONOR ALL READY!

RELAX, BOYS, I'LL FIND YOUR KILLER MOTH FOR YOU.

NO. I'M NOT DOING THIS.

PLEASE, I'M SORRY. I'M SO, *SO* SORRY.

OF COURSE YOU'RE ALIVE. OF *COURSE* YOU FAKED IT ALL.

OF COURSE IT WAS YOUR DELIGHTFUL DERRIÈRE ON THAT CHOPPER IN GOTHAM. RIGHT THERE. SAYING NOTHING. OF COURSE!*

DICK GRAYSON DOESN'T DIE. HE JUST *DISAPPOINTS.*

HE ASKED. I SAID NO. I SAID-- HE ASKED ME TO HELP. IT WAS THE ONLY WAY. I HAD TO HELP. AND I--

HE ASKED. I GET IT. BATMAN ASKS. AND YOU SAY YES.

AND THE REST OF US--NO MATTER WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE ARE--WE CAN ALL JUST GO STRAIGHT TO HELL.

BARBARA! I DON'T HAVE MY HYPNOS!

I DON'T HAVE A *MASK!*

I DON'T HAVE A DAMN ROPE!

*BATGIRL ANNUAL #3 --TAY

JUST... I GOT YOU SOMETHING, OKAY? IT'S NOT MUCH. IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING.

I MEAN, IT DOESN'T *FIX* ANYTHING. IT'S JUST WHAT I'VE GOT.

IT'S FROM THAT TIME. WHEN YOU WERE IN REHAB AND WE WENT TO THE *TRAPEZE* AT THE PIERS AND WE TRIED OUT THE HANGER BAR.

AND WE SWUNG TOGETHER. LIKE EVERYTHING WAS ALL RIGHT, CAUSE EVERYTHING WAS.

I WENT BACK LATER AND I *STOLE* THE BAR. DON'T TELL.

BUT I HAD TO. I JUST KIND OF WAS HOPING TO REMEMBER. IT WASN'T LIKE A FIRST DATE, BUT MAYBE IT WAS?

AND I'VE HAD IT SINCE, BUT I DON'T THINK I REALLY NEED IT, Y'KNOW.

I CAN REMEMBER YOU UP THERE JUST FINE.

WITH ME.

I THINK ABOUT IT EVERY DAY.

"BARBARA, IT WAS YOU AND ME AT THE VERY BEGINNING.

"REMEMBER THAT, OKAY?

"EVERYTHING ELSE: THE EVIL VILLAINS, THE BATMEN, THE WORLDS ON THE BRINK.

"A THOUSAND DANGERS AND HORRORS STREAMING IN.

"KNOCKING ME DOWN, STRANGLING ME, KILLING ME.

"I SWEAR IT DOESN'T MATTER, BECAUSE I WILL *ALWAYS* COME BACK.

"TO YOU... TO YOU."

WAIT A DAMN SECOND, IS THAT JUST YOUR STUPID CLUEMASTER--

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? GO AFTER HIM, IDIOT!

ENOUGH WITH THE BANTER, NIGHTWING. LET'S GET TO WORK.

KEEP YOUR CLUES AND YOUR DETECTIVE SKILLS AND YOUR LIMITS. I'LL DO THIS MY WAY!

I KNOW THOUSANDS OF WAYS TO KILL YOU. THOUSANDS, GRAYSON.

DAY OR NIGHT, WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT, I'M GOING TO DEFEAT YOU AT SOMETHING YOU FEEL UNBEATABLE AT.

IF YOU'RE NOT UP TO IT, STAND ASIDE, DICK GRAYSON.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT I GAVE UP FOR THIS? IT'S NOT JUST NOTHING TO ME.

YOU'RE ALIVE?!

PENNYWORTH AND I ARE STILL LUCKY TO BE ALIVE. AND SO ARE YOU.

MY MOTHER AND I, WE NEED TO TALK.

YOU'RE ALIVE?!

OU CAN HAVE MY RESPECT IF YOU EARN IT. YOU'RE NOT MY FATHER.

WE HAVE COMPANY.

MY MOTHER WILL HAVE YOU KILLED.

...CALL HIM OFF AT ONCE... MOTHER...

WE CAN'T BE BATMAN AND ROBIN ANYMORE, CAN WE?

HELP. IT'S NOT ME. SOMETHING'S MAKING ME DO IT.

YOU'RE A FREAK.

NOW THAT YOUR BACK, WHAT HAPPENS TO BATMAN AND ROBIN?

HIS BOSS IS PLANNING SOME KIND OF ATTACK ON THE CITY. I ALMOST HAD IT OUT OF HIM!

I DIDN'T COME HERE TO BE PATRONIZED OR JUDGED ON MY "PERFORMANCE." FIND ANOTHER ROBIN.

WORD IS YOU NEED A ROBIN TO LEAD THIS FLOCK. WELL HERE I AM.

WANT A RIDE?

ARE YOU TOUCHING MY FOOD?

JUST TELL... TELL THAT GIRL WE'RE EVEN.

DID YOU JUST SAVE MY LIFE?

WE NEED ALL THE BATMEN WE CAN GET, FATHER.

THE PARTY? HE'S USING IT TO REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE, DRAKE.

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS. HE'S BEYOND INSANE.

IT WENT WRONG. YOU LEFT US UNPREPARED, GRAYSON.

MY FATHER MADE SOME VERY STRANGE CHOICES WHEN IT CAME TO PARTNERS.

SO FAR I'D SAY YOU'VE BEEN MY FAVORITE PARTNER. WE WERE THE BEST, RICHARD. NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE THINKS.

I MISSED YOU.

I KNOW, KIDDO. ME TOO.

ME TOO.

AREN'T YOU GOING TO TELL ME I'M AN ASS FOR HIDING, FOR DOING IT ALL?

DON'T YOU ALREADY KNOW YOU'RE AN ASS?

I DON'T REALLY SEE THE POINT IN ME HAVING TO BOTHER WITH IT.

HAHAHA

Y'KNOW, DAMIAN, I GOT YOU SOMETHING. A GIFT FROM YOUR OLD MAN'S THINGS.

IT'S A SWORD HILT, FROM THE FIRST TIME YOUR DAD FOUGHT YOUR ***GRANDPA.***

FIRST TIME HE MET YOUR MOM. YOU SHOULD HAVE IT.

-›TT‹-

WELL, I ALREADY HAVE GRANDFATHER'S HILT, SO PERHAPS THIS CAN COMPLETE THE COLLECTION.

THOUGH IT DOES SEEM MILDLY REDUNDANT.

"BEFORE WE GET INTO IT--AND WE HAVE A LOT TO GET INTO--I HAVE TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.

"RED ROBIN, RED HOOD, BATGIRL, I KNEW THEY COULD TAKE ME LEAVING.

"EACH OF THEM HAS BEEN IN THIS GAME LONG ENOUGH.

"AND YOU'VE SEEN THINGS, TOO, I KNOW.

"KIDS LIKE YOU... WELL, THERE AREN'T A LOT OF KIDS LIKE YOU.

"I JUST WANT TO SAY, HOW YOU TOOK IT, HOW YOU WENT ON.

TO SEE WHAT YOU'RE DOING, WHAT YOU'VE BECOME, I'M NOTHING BUT PROUD.

WAIT, ARE YOU USING THAT ASININE CHILD'S GAME YOU TAUGHT ME?

WHAT WAS IT CALLED? THE...

...CLUEMASTER'S CODE.*

DICK MADE ME LEARN IT IN THE BEGINNING. THE *FIRST LETTER* OF EVERY SENTENCE SPELLS A HIDDEN WORD.

I KNOW THE DAMN CODE.

AND I THINK WE'VE WAITED LONG ENOUGH FOR HIM TO GET CLEAR. LET'S DO WHAT HE SAYS AND...

"BREAK IT."

ALL RIGHT, BOY-TOY WONDER. LET'S SEE WHAT YOUR LITTLE MELODRAMATIC SPEECH WAS ALL ABOUT. WHAT DO YOU NEED ME TO...

FIND... WHO?

OH WAIT, *THAT* GUY. WITH THE HOOD, WHO WORKS FOR SPYRAL? BEST HAND-TO-HAND IN THE UK. =TT= WE MAY HAVE TO DELAY BREAKFAST BY ABOUT SIX MINUTES, MYA.

OH, AND OF COURSE MR. SUPER-SPY ACTUALLY WROTE THAT I'M NOT *ALLOWED* TO KILL THE GUY. *I* DECIDE WHAT'S ALLOWED.

I MEAN, I MAY *CHOOSE NOT* TO KILL HIM. FOR NOW.

SNORF

I LIKE THIS "MR. SUPER-SPY." HOW EXACTLY DID HE SURVIVE KNOWING YOU?

*FIRST SEEN IN GRAYSON FUTURES END #1
--TAY

HIS PASSWORD IS "SPOTTEDDICK37" ONE WORD. CAPITAL "S." CAPITAL "D."

HONESTLY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF IT.

CHECK, "SPOTTEDDICK37."

TRANSFERRING DATA YOUR WAY, RED. IT'S A BIG FILE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE GAVE HER THE CODE NAME "RED."

ARE THERE NO OTHER COLORS?

BIG FILE, ALL RIGHT. ***CHECKMATE*** HERE HAS A BIG SYSTEM.

WITH THE ADDED BONUS THAT IF SPYRAL DOES MANAGE TO TRACE OUR HACK, THEY'LL KNOW JUST WHO TO BLAME.

DONE. BROKEN. THE DICK HAS BEEN SPOTTED. ***THE HYPNOS ARE OURS.***

MY GOODBYES ARE SAID. MY BED IS MADE. MY HYPNOS ARE BACK IN.

REPORTING FOR DUTY, MA'AM.

PROBLEM IDENTIFYING SUBJECT DUE TO ENCRYPTION.

DO YOU WISH ME TO BREAK THE ENCRYPTION, BIRDWATCHER?

GLAD TO SEE YOU, 37. AND I'M SORRY FOR THE THREATS, REALLY.

BUT YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THERE IS A BIGGER MISSION.

DO YOU SEE THAT? DO YOU SEE HOW THIS WAS NECESSARY?

I DO.

Hmm. YOU KNOW WE WATCHED YOU, 37, AS YOU SAID GOODBYE.

IT WAS ALL VERY TOUCHING. VERY KIND.

WE'D EXPECT NOTHING LESS.

VERY WELL. DECRYPTING NOW.

BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW, ***WE*** CAN BE YOUR FAMILY NOW.

MATRON, TIGER. ALL OF US AT SPYRAL. EVEN ME.

DECRYPTING... DECRYPTING...

IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THAT.

THAT YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT ALONE.

DO YOU GET IT, 37? DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

YEAH, I GET IT.

SUBJECT IDENTIFIED, *LUKA NETZ, AGENT ZERO.*

BRACE YOURSELF, ROBIN, THIS MAY BE THE TOUGHEST FIGHT OF OUR LIVES!

SO FAR, I'D SAY YOU'VE BEEN MY FAVORITE PARTNER. WE WERE THE BEST, RICHARD. NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE THINKS.

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A FINE PERFORMANCE

SCRIPT / TOM KING PLOT BY TIM SEELEY & TOM KING PENCILS & GREYTONES / MIKEL JANÍN INKS / MIKEL JANÍN, HUGO PETRUS & JUAN CASTRO
COLORIST / JEROMY COX LETTERER / CARLOS M. MANGUAL COVER / MIKEL JANÍN GREEN LANTERN 75TH ANNIVERSARY COVER / ANDREW ROBINSON
EDITOR / REBECCA TAYLOR GROUP EDITOR / MARK DOYLE BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

DC COMICS™

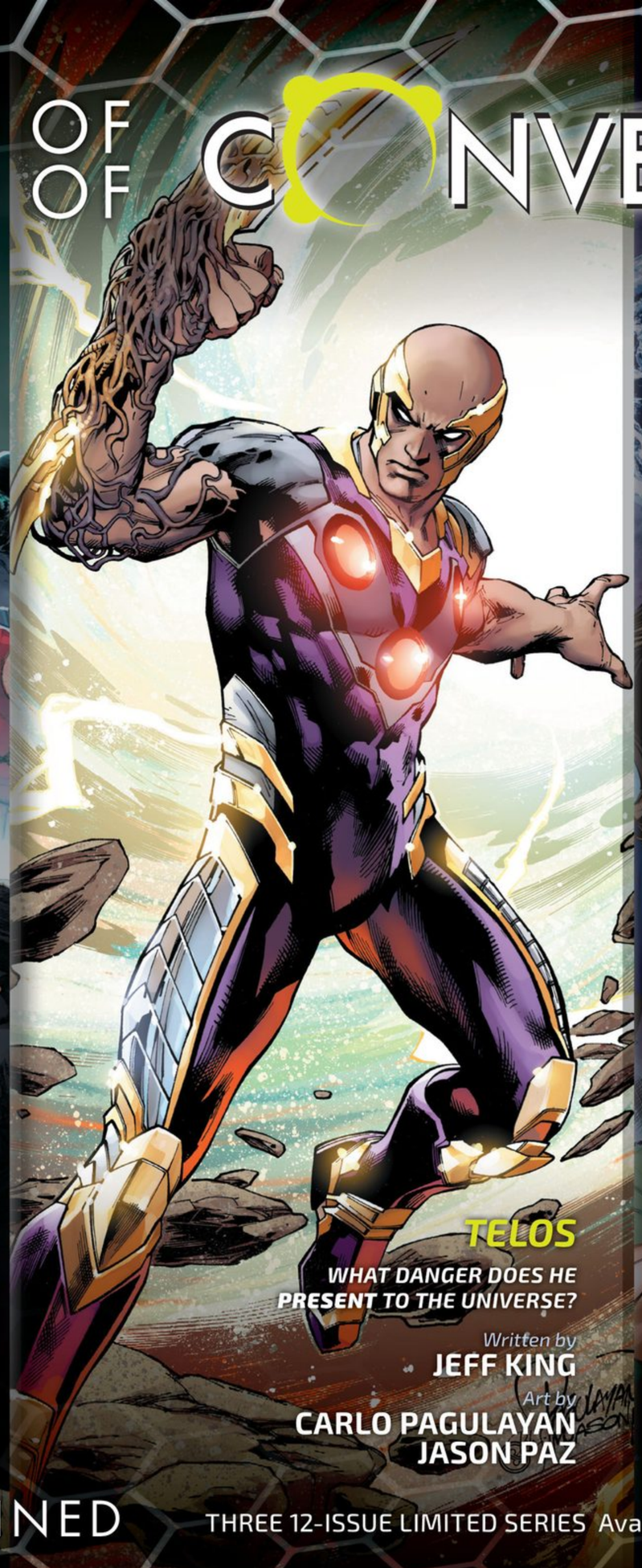
SPINNING OUT OF THE PAGES OF CONVERGENCE

TITANS HUNT

WHAT SECRETS ARE BURIED IN THEIR PAST?

Written by
DAN ABNETT

Art by
PAULO SIQUEIRA



TELOS

WHAT DANGER DOES HE PRESENT TO THE UNIVERSE?

Written by
JEFF KING

Art by
CARLO PAGULAYAN
JASON PAZ

SUPERMAN: LOIS AND CLARK

HOW CAN THEY SURVIVE IN A FUTURE THAT IS NOT THEIR OWN?

Written by
DAN JURGENS

Art by
LEE WEEKS

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THE DC UNIVERSE DEFINED

THREE 12-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES Available in Print and Digitally ***OCTOBER 2015***

ARE *YOU* READY FOR

ROBERT VENDITTI, VAN JENSEN & BRETT BOOTH

THE CREATIVE TEAM BEHIND **THE FLASH**?

Family is an important dynamic in this storyline so far. Was this a conscious decision, or did it bubble up organically in the writing?

Robert: It was a very conscious decision. An underlying theme of the arc is how far one is willing to go to protect one's family. It has lead us to some interesting character dynamics, where you have Henry trying to protect Barry at the same time Barry is trying to protect Henry, but the two end up at cross purposes.

Van: Family has always been a key aspect of Flash, and the story of Nora Allen's death is the one big story that hadn't yet been explored. When we decided to finally reveal the truth behind it, we knew that family was the key theme of the story. So from there, we've made a point to focus on family dynamics in every aspect of the story—even Thawne's dysfunctional family of villains.

Brett, is there a difference in drawing Professor Zoom's speed versus The Flash's speed, since Zoom appears to be much faster?

Brett: It's a tad different, as one is moving through time while the other is running. We leach the color out when Zoom is doing his thing because it makes him pop and really slows everything else down, even Barry!

There's something extremely insidious about Professor Zoom, brought more to light after seeing him make Henry Allen kill a security guard in issue #42. How is it writing a character like this?

Van: When I write Zoom, I try to imagine everything good and moral about Barry Allen, then sprint headlong in the opposite direction. Thawne has logic to what he does, but man, oh man, is it twisted.

Robert: Zoom is one of the all-time greats. He really is just bad down to his core. But there's also something sympathetic about how tortured he is. We'll see the reasons for that soon.

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